



U.S. Department of Justice

Southern District of Indiana

United States Attorney

10 West Market Street

(317)226-6333

*Suite 2100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

TDD (317)226-5438

FAX NUMBERS:

Criminal (317)226-6125

Administration (317)226-5176

Civil (317)226-5027

FLU (317) 226-6133

OCDETF (317)226-5953

January 23, 2004

CONTACT PERSON:

Claudia Cummings

(317) 229-2477 office

(317) 590-7928 mobile

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**TWO DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN IDENTITY THEFT
AND COUNTERFEIT CHECK SCHEME**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that SIRIMAN COULIBALY, 30, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was sentence today to 31 months imprisonment, and co-conspirator NIGEL MCCOWAN, 29, Richmond, Indiana, was sentenced to 27 months imprisonment on January 21, 2004, by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following their guilty pleas to passing counterfeit business checks and identity theft. This case was the result of a one year investigation by the federal financial crimes task force which includes the United States Postal Inspection Service, United States Secret Service, and Hamilton County Sheriff's Department.

During the investigation, members of the financial crimes task force searched a

-more-

COULIBALY - 2

residence in Indianapolis where they discovered a Range Rover that had been purchased by MCCOWAN using the stolen identity of an Indiana man. Agents also searched an Indianapolis hotel room rented by COULIBALY under an alias name. In the hotel room, agents discovered more than 60 genuine cancelled checks of Indianapolis businesses and a computer containing drafts of more than 60 counterfeit business checks. Following COULIBALY's arrest, officers discovered that he is a national of Mali, a country located in West Africa, who was wanted by the state of Pennsylvania for attempted murder under the alias name of Bob Jackson. In the eight months before the searches, numerous counterfeit business checks had been passed in the Indianapolis area including several of businesses whose genuine checks were discovered in COULIBALY's hotel room.

According to Donna R. Eide, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed 3 years supervised release following both defendant's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, MCCOWAN must undergo drug testing. MCCOWAN was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$ 8,613 and COULIBALY was ordered to make restitution in the amount of 3 years.

###